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Simultaneous Uniformization

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We shall show that any two Riemann surfaces satisfying a certain condition, for instance, any two closed surfaces of the same genus $g > 1$, can be uniformized by one group of fractional linear transformations (Theorem 1). This leads, in conjunction with previous results [2,3], to the simultaneous uniformization of all algebraic curves of a given genus (Theorems 2-4). Theorem 5 contains an application to infinitely dimensional Teichmüller spaces.

1. Let S be an abstract Riemann surface, f a homeomorphism of bounded eccentricity of S onto another such surface S' , and $[f]$ the homotopy class of f . We call $(S, [f], S')$ a coupled pair of Riemann surfaces, an even (odd) pair if f preserves (reverses) orientation. Two coupled pairs, $(S, [f], S')$ and $(S_1, [f_1], S'_1)$ are called equivalent if there exist conformal homeomorphisms h and h' with $h(S) = S_1$, $h'(S) = S'_1$, and $[h'fh^{-1}] = [f_1]$.

Example. Let m be a Beltrami differential on the Riemann surface S_0 , i.e. a differential of type $(-1,1)$, $m = (\zeta)d\bar{\zeta}/d\zeta$, with $|\mu| \leq \text{const.} < 1$. By S_0^m we denote the surface S_0 with the conformal structure redefined by means of the local metric $|d\zeta + \mu d\bar{\zeta}|$. With m there is associated the even pair $(S_0^m, [1], S)$, where 1 is the identity mapping, and the odd pair $(S_0^m, [\iota], \bar{S}_0)$ where ι denotes the natural mapping of S_0 onto its mirror image \bar{S}_0 . The latter is defined by replacing each local uniformization ζ on S_0 by $\bar{\zeta}$.



A group G of Möbius transformations will be called quasi-Fuchsian if there exists an oriented Jordan curve γ_G (on the Riemann sphere P) which is fixed under G , and if G is fixed-point-free and properly discontinuous in the domains $I(\gamma_G)$ and $E(\gamma_G)$ interior and exterior to γ_G , respectively. If γ_G is a circle, G is a Fuchsian group.

A quasi-Fuchsian group G is canonically isomorphorphic to the fundamental groups of the two Riemann surfaces $S_1 = I(\gamma_G)/G$ and $S_2 = E(\gamma_G)/G$, modulo inner automorphisms. If the resulting isomorphisms of the fundamental groups of S_1 onto those of S_2 can be induced by an orientation reversing homeomorphism f of bounded eccentricity, G is called proper. In this case $[f]$ is uniquely determined. Thus a proper quasi-Fuchsian group represents a coupled pair $(S_1, [f], S_2)$.

A quasi-Fuchsian group G is said to be of the first (second) kind if the fixed points of elements of G are (are not) dense or γ_G . This is, as one sees at once, a property of S_1 (or of S_2).

2. Theorem 1. Let S be a Riemann surface with hyperbolic universal covering surface and $(S, [f], S')$ an odd coupled pair. Then this pair (is equivalent to one which) can be represented by a quasi-Fuchsian group G . If G is of the first kind, then every quasi-Fuchsian group G_1 representing an equivalent coupled pair is of the form $G_1 = CGC^{-1}$ where C is a Möbius transformation.

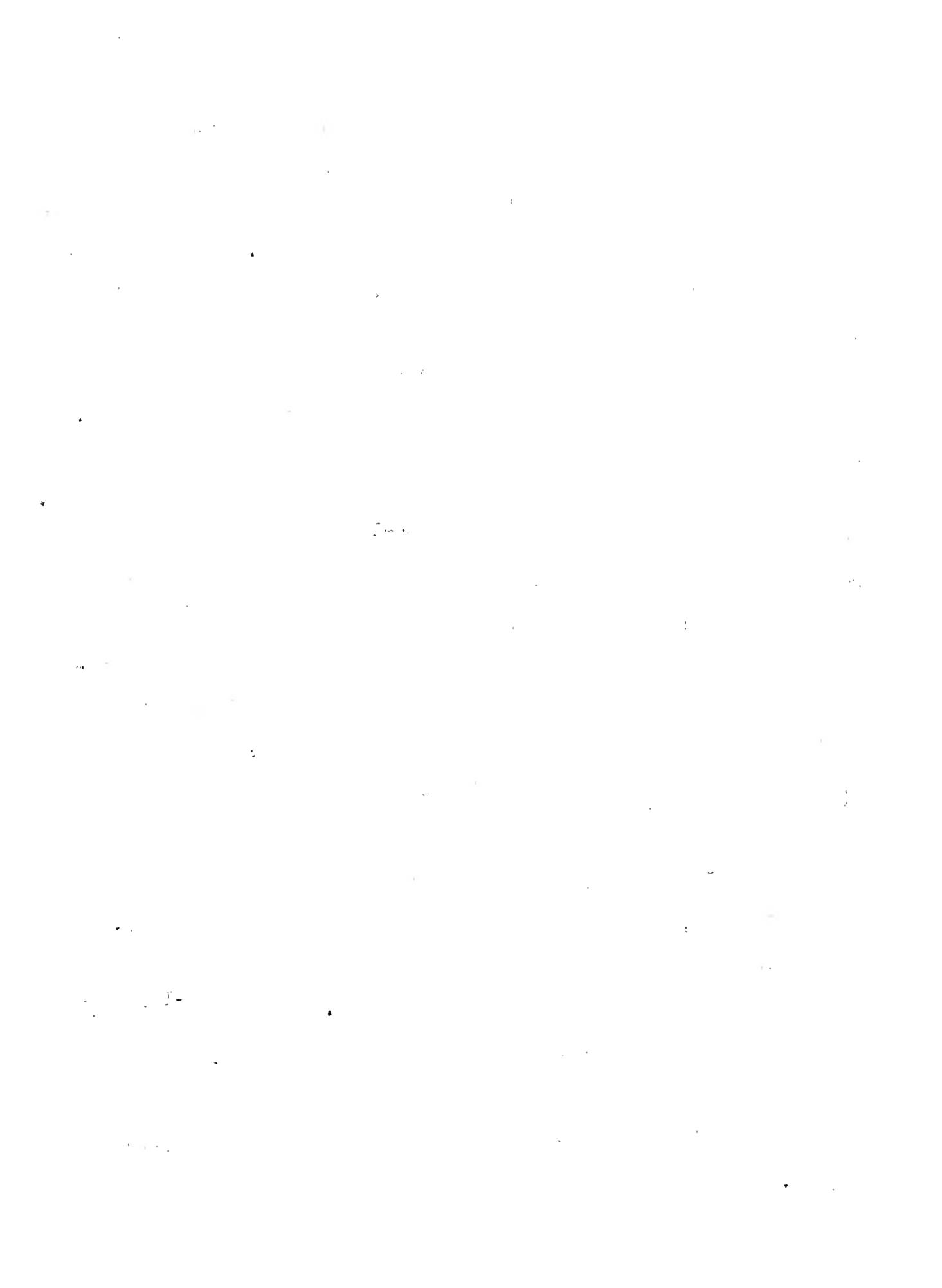
Proof. One sees easily that any odd coupled pair is equivalent to one of the form $(S_o^m, [\iota], \bar{S}_o)$; we assume therefore that the given pair already has this form. If S_o^m is not the sphere, the plane, the punctured plane or a torus, the same is true of S_o . In this case the classical uniformization theorem asserts



that the pair $(S_o, [\ell], \bar{S}_o)$ can be represented by a Fuchsian group G_o ; we may assume that γ_{G_o} is the real axis. There exists a measurable function $\mu(z)$, $|z| < \infty$, such that $\mu(z) \equiv 0$ for $\operatorname{Im} z \leq 0$ and $\mu(z) d\bar{z}/dz = m$ for $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$. Then $|\mu| \leq \text{const.} < 1$ and $\mu(z)d\bar{z}/dz$ is invariant under G_o . It is known (cf. for instance, [1]) that there exists a unique solution $\mathcal{L}_m(z)$ of the Beltrami equation $\partial \mathcal{L}/\partial \bar{z} = \mu(z) \partial \mathcal{L}/\partial z$ which has generalized L_2 derivatives and is a homeomorphism of P onto itself, with fixed points at $0, 1, \infty$. If $A_o \in G_o$, then $\mathcal{L}_{m A_o}$ satisfies the same Beltrami equation; it follows that there is a Möbius transformation A with $\mathcal{L}_{m A_o} = A \mathcal{L}_m$. One verifies easily that $G = \mathcal{L}_{m G_o} \mathcal{L}_m^{-1}$ is a quasi-Fuchsian group representing $(S_o^m, [\ell], \bar{S}_o)$. We note that $\gamma_G = \mathcal{L}_m(\gamma_{G_o})$ has two-dimensional measure zero.

Assume next that G is of the first kind and that the quasi-Fuchsian group G_1 represents an equivalent pair. Then there exist conformal mappings ϕ and ψ with $\phi(I(\gamma_G)) = I(\gamma_{G_1})$, $\psi(E(\gamma_G)) = E(\gamma_{G_1})$, $\phi G \phi^{-1} = \psi G \psi^{-1} = G_1$, and, for every $A \in G$,

$\phi A \phi^{-1} = B \psi A \psi^{-1} B^{-1}$, B being a fixed element of G_1 . Since ψ may be replaced by $B\psi$, we lose no generality in assuming that $B = 1$. The functions $\phi(z)$ and $\psi(z)$ are conformal homeomorphisms between Jordan domains and hence topological on γ_{G_o} . Since $\phi A \phi^{-1} = \psi A \psi^{-1}$ for $A \in G$, we have that $\phi = \psi$ at the fixed points of A . Therefore $\phi = \psi$ on γ_{G_o} and there exists a homeomorphism C of P onto itself such that $C G C^{-1} = G_1$, $C(z) = \phi(z)$ in $I(\gamma_{G_o})$ and $C(z) = \psi(z)$ in $E(\gamma_{G_o})$.



Using known properties of L_m (cf. [1]) and a standard reasoning we verify that $C \in L_m$ has L_2 derivatives everywhere; so, therefore, does C . Since $\Im C/\Im z = 0$ a.e., C is conformal and hence a Möbius transformation.

3. Consider now a fixed closed Riemann surface S_o of genus $g > 1$. The equivalence classes of even coupled pairs $(S, [f], S_o)$ are the points of the Teichmüller space T_g . It is known that T_g has a natural complex-analytic structure and can be represented as a bounded domain in the number space C^{3g-3} ; also T_g is homeomorphic to a cell (ct. [2,3] and the reference given there). If $\tau = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{3g-3}) \in T_g$, we denote by $(S_\tau, [f_\tau], S_o)$ any pair represented by τ . There exists a properly discontinuous group Γ_g of holomorphic automorphisms of T_g such that S_{τ_1} is conformally equivalent to S_{τ_2} if and only if τ_1 and τ_2 are equivalent under Γ_g .

Theorem 2. There exist $2g$ Möbius transformations $A_j^{(\tau)}$ which depend holomorphically on $\tau \in T_g$, satisfy the normalization conditions: $A_{2g-1}(0) = 0$, $A_{2g-1}(\infty) = \infty$, $A_{2g}(1) = 1$, $\prod_{j=1}^g A_{2j-1} A_{2j}^{-1} A_{2j-1}^{-1} A_{2j}^{-1} = 1$, and generate, for each fixed τ , a quasi-Fuchsian group G with $I(\gamma_G \tau) / G$ conformally equivalent to S_τ .

Holomorphic dependence of $A_j^{(\tau)}$ on $\tau \in T_g$ means, of course, that $A_j^{(\tau)}(z) = [a(\tau)z + b(\tau)]/[c(\tau)z + d(\tau)]$, where a, b, c, d are holomorphic functions.

Sketch of proof. We may assume that $0 \in T_g$ corresponds to the pair $(S_o, [1], S_o)$. Let G_o be the Fuchsian group (with the real axis) representing the odd pair $(S_o, [\iota], \bar{S}_o)$, and let

$\{A_1^{(0)}, \dots, A_{2g}^{(0)}\}$ be a suitably normalized set of generators of G_0 . Every pair $(S_\varepsilon, [f_\varepsilon], S_0)$ is equivalent to one of the form $(S_0^m, [1], S_0)$. Let Ω_m be as in the proof of Theorem 1, and set $A_j^{(\varepsilon)} = \Omega_m A_j^{(0)} \Omega_m^{-1}$. Using Theorem 1 and the properties of Ω_m proved in [1], as well as the definition of the complex analytic structure of T_g (cf. [2]), one verifies that $A_j^{(\varepsilon)}$ depend only on ε and not on m , and have the required properties.

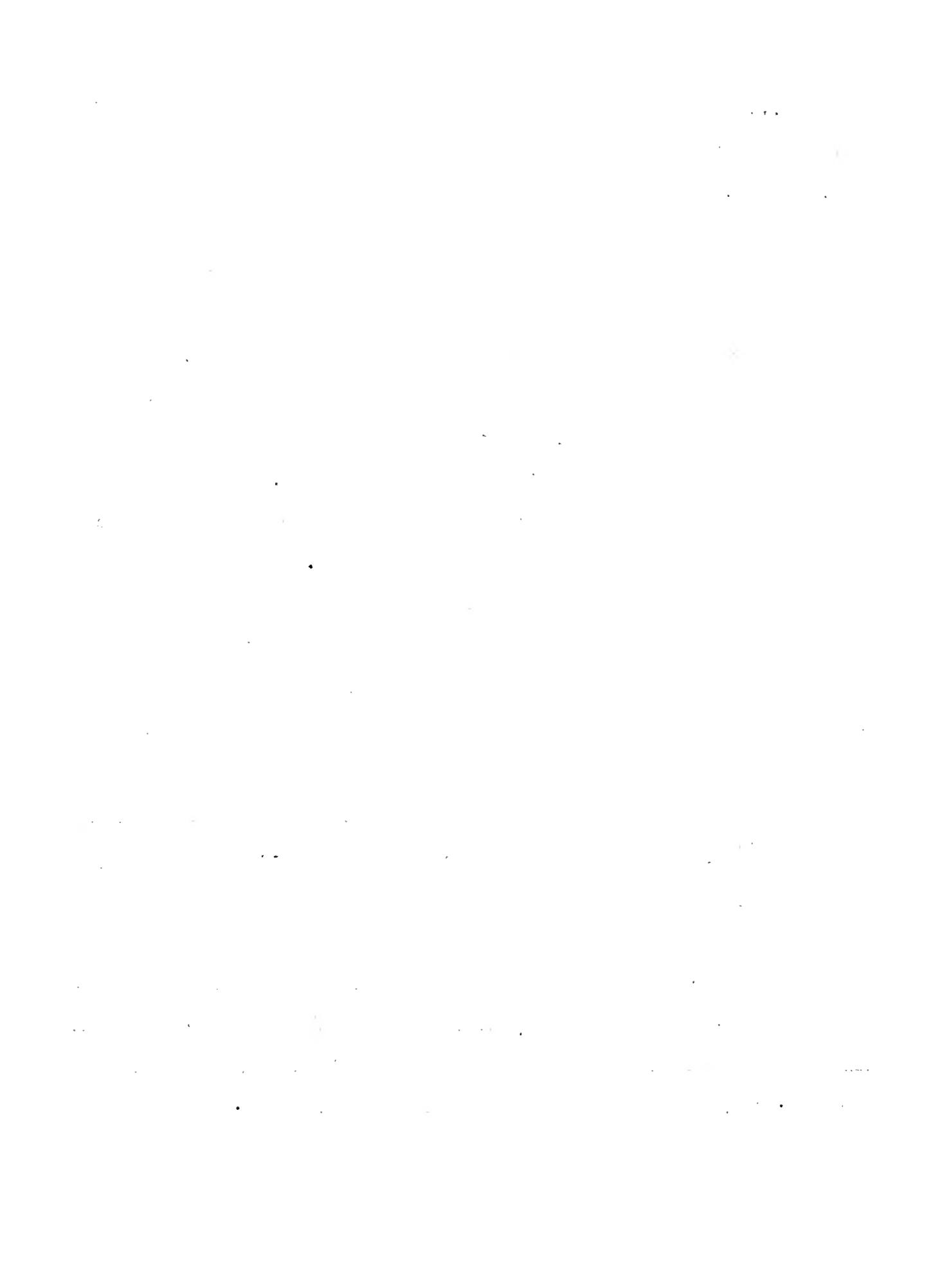
Note that $\gamma_G = \Omega_m(\gamma_{G_0})$, so that this curve admits the representation $z = \zeta(t, \tau)$, $-\infty < t < \infty$ where ζ depends holomorphically on τ , and $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$ for $|t| \rightarrow \infty$.

Next, let S_0 be as before, and let S_1 denote the surface obtained by removing some fixed point from S_0 . The equivalence classes of even coupled pairs $(S, [f], S_1)$ are the points of the Teichmüller space $T_{g,1}$ which is again a complex manifold homeomorphic to a cell and representable as a bounded domain in C^{3g-2} . Using the methods of the proof of Theorem 2 it is not difficult to establish

Theorem 3. $T_{g,1}$ is holomorphically equivalent to the domain $M_{g,1} \subset C^{3g-2}$ defined as follows: $(z, \varepsilon) = (z, \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{3g-3}) \in M_{g,1}$ if and only if $\varepsilon \in T_g$ and $z \in I(\gamma_{G_\varepsilon})$.

The results of [2, § 10] can now be restated as

Theorem 4. There exist finitely many meromorphic functions, $F_1(z, \varepsilon), \dots, F_N(z, \varepsilon)$, in $M_{g,1}$ which, for every fixed ε , generate the field of automorphic functions in $I(\gamma_{G_\varepsilon})$ under the group G_ε , i.e. - the field of meromorphic functions on S_ε .



These functions uniformize simultaneously all algebraic function fields of genus g , just as the functions $\wp(z, \tau)$, $\wp'(z, \tau)$, $|z| < \infty$, $\operatorname{Im} \tau > 0$, uniformize all elliptic function fields.

Finally let S_0 be any open Riemann surface without non-trivial conformal self mapping homotopic to the identity. The Teichmüller space $T(S_0)$, i.e. the space of equivalence classes of even pairs $(S, [f], S_0)$ is a complete metric space (under the Teichmüller distance) but, in general, infinitely dimensional. Nevertheless we may define a continuous complex valued function $\bar{\Phi}$ on $T(S_0)$ to be holomorphic if for every $p_1 = (S_1, [f], S_0) \in T(S_0)$ and every finite sequence (m_1, \dots, m_r) of Beltrami's differentials on S_1 , the mapping of a neighborhood of $0 \in \mathbb{C}^r$ into C given by $(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_r) \rightarrow p = (S_1^{(\zeta_1^{m_1} + \dots + \zeta_r^{m_r})}, [f], S_0) \rightarrow \bar{\Phi}(p)$ is holomorphic. The method of proof of theorem 2 yields

Theorem 5. If $(S_0, [\nu], \bar{S}_0)$ is representable by a Fuchsian group of the first kind, then there exist a finite or infinite sequence of Möbius transformation $\{A_j^{(p)}\}$, depending holomorphically on $p \in T(S_0)$ and such that, for every fixed $q = (S_1, [f], S_0) \in T(S_0)$, the $A_j^{(q)}$ generate a quasi-Fuchsian group G_q with $I(\gamma_{G_q})/G_q$ conformally equivalent to S_1 .

Thus there are many holomorphic functions as $T(S_0)$, in particular, enough functions to separate points.



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